

ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009, 6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 6:30 PM at the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Werkheiser, and Mr. Mullen. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, and Mrs. Cusick.

Present in the audience was Mr. Sangster, High School Principal; and Dr. Joanne Haley Sullivan, Director of North River Collaborative.

Representing the press was Gilbert Arbuckle, Brockton Enterprise, and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of August 24, 2009 were accepted.

A request from South Shore Eagles Youth Hockey to distribute flyers to elementary school students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from Rockland High School Band Boosters to distribute flyers to elementary and middle school students and to post at the high school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from Rockland Little League to distribute flyers to elementary and middle school students and to post at the high school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from Hanover YMCA to post and distribute flyers at the middle school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts to distribute flyers to elementary and middle school students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous.

After a general discussion regarding the hours at the Rockland Memorial Library, it was voted to have the School Committee send a letter to the Library Board of Trustees requesting that the library be open on Saturdays. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. Mr. Norris and Mrs. Werkheiser voted in favor and Mr. Mullen was opposed.

The Superintendent reported on a MASS Executive Board meeting at which financial issues were discussed including stimulus and 9C cuts. It was noted that the consolidation of school districts has been put on hold for the present time.

On five separate motions by Mr. Mullen, seconds by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the following Security Trailer Reports for August were accepted:

- 1) Almshouse
- 2) Esten
- 3) Hartsuff Park
- 4) Jefferson
- 5) Memorial Park

The following School Newsletters for September were noted:

- 1) Esten
- 2) Jefferson
- 3) Memorial Park

The Building Rentals for August were noted.

Mr. Retchless recapped the latest activities of the Building Committee. Dr. Rogers and the Superintendent attended a meeting at the MSBA which showcased architect's drawing and cost. All final materials must be at the MSBA by September 23rd in preparation for the Board meeting on the 30th. The next meeting of the Building Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 15th and will be televised on Wednesday, the 16th.

After a general discussion regarding the Avon Public Schools being approved as a member of the North River Collaborative. Dr. Haley Sullivan answered questions from the Committee. The Superintendent noted his meeting with the Director and Director of Business Services, from the Collaborative regarding the School Committee concerns. Dr. Levine, North River Collaborative Board member, stated that approval of a new member requires a vote by the North River Board and each individual School Committees. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the membership.

The Superintendent asked that the Committee approve a volunteer Assistant Football Coach. The Committee had concerns about the liability insurance in case of an injury. On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to table the approval.

The Superintendent gave an overview of the opening of the 2009-2010 School Year noting the hiring of thirteen new teachers system-wide, commending Mrs. Garvey for her efforts with Kindergarten scheduling and busing, and commending the English teachers at the High School for the variety of courses being offered. School highlights included: Esten, Jefferson and Memorial Park Schools Open Houses, the creation of a Math Curriculum Coordinator position at the Middle School, the Middle School Building Project advancing to the schematic stage at MSBA; and Band Camp, Student Government Camp, and the formation of the Steering Committee for the NEASC process at the Rockland High School.

The Superintendent announced that Serono, Inc. has donated 99 IBM laptop computers, 4 docking stations and a number of keyboards to the high school. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the donation. It was noted that the Superintendent had already sent a thank you the Serono company.

On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, it was voted to declare a miscellaneous listing of IT equipment from the Esten and High School as surplus.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to declare three registers from the cafeteria at the high school as surplus. It was noted that the registers are to be sold.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to declare a miscellaneous listing of books at the Esten School as surplus.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to declare a miscellaneous listing of books at the high school as surplus.

After a general discussion regarding the new Mission Statement presented from the high school NEASC Committee, it was voted to table approval until the next meeting. Mr. Sangster distributed NEASC Accreditation Handbooks to members of the Committee. The self-evaluation will be starting immediately with the full evaluation in May of 2011.

Superintendent Retchless, Mr. Scarpelli, and Mrs. Ryan, Head Nurse, participated in a conference call with the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the Department of Public Health regarding the H1N1 flu. Packets in English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese are going home to parents with information about the flue. The Superintendent is in contact with Mrs. McCarthy, the local health agent, regarding vaccines. Guidelines with regard to instructions to parents about how long a student should be out of school and symptoms were discussed. The schools will host non-mandatory vaccinations in the future.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve a candy sale for the Pre-School PAC. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve a scratch ticket sale for the High School Cheerleaders. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

It was announced that the Back to School Night at the High School will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd. The Middle School Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 16th. The Athletic Booster will hold a fundraiser on October 3rd and the Citizen's Scholarship Toll Booth will be held on September 26th.

The Chairman polled the Committee with regard to Executive Session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining not to reconvene back into open session. The vote included Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser all in favor. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting started in the Superintendent's office at 7:35 PM.

Superintendent Retchless and Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli were invited to attend.

The Superintendent updated the Committee on correspondence relative to the grievance procedure relating to Mrs. Denise Curran.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary